### FOR THE FAIR SEX The Decided Disadvantages of

a Prolonged Courtship. YOUTH THE TIME TO MARRY

Cynthia Mariows Talin Why a Long E-



life of anticipated partnership with sty-the engaged ones drift tegether a summer was of poetry, laughter song. There never were such eyes ands or lips as they discover in each

er, such loving, truefing hearts. his is all very pretty and quite as it ald be, and the best of it is that oth does not monopolite the situation, my engagement, founded on the right is picture to the world, and the world mixed does nost distinctly dots upon berers. That is why novels are rend with such continual axidity, why plays mean when he tells a love story is always allow of an attentive andience.

After marriage of course comes disti-sionapent, although with persons of temperament this phase is still in obeyonder, and, by the way, when his remunities have plenty of money to more them above the groveling levelitive natures cannot grovel with injuity and grace—they are perhaps the improved somis to be found enjoying the doubtful compensations of married life. Their eyes are never quite opened to the dread realities of burned coup, leaky pipes mountained grocer lails and matrained services. They calmly rise above these wourgings of the flesh, and from the service heights of philosophy gaze upon the scrambles of their fellow mes with poetic indifference, secure only in the selfashness of mutual love. Their engagements were unwritten blank verse, and their upited existence never developes a semblance of tragely. The remainties, however, are seant in number, more's the pily, and the disillusionbtful compensations of married life.

ber, more's the pily, and the dislination-lized ones are named legion.

Properly speaking, the engagement is merely the interval of preparation be-fore marriage—the definite opportunity business plans, to decide upon the de-tails of a life together. Ordinarily a year, or, at furthest, two, are desmal sufficient to this end, but when the pro-bation stretches on indefinitely one must conclude that the man in the case is either "a laggard in love and a dastard in war" or eige that the "fair Ellen"

must be painfully lacking in charms.
At my rate the long engagement, although probably first invented to suit the convenience of imperunious suitors, is a manifest drawback to any woman, more especially so to one of a lively spirit. Socially she is estructed, in a measure, from the companionship of all other men—a being set apart, marked and inheled—yet debarred, by iron bound conventionality, from that daily intuncey with the one to whom sie is promised which her peculiar position, as well as her affectionate and sympathetic nature prompts. Necessarily as the years go by she must feel berself must enterly of the happiness she has funcied, and which her more fortunate seters, who are married and settled, are sittled paiding before or facing with a brave, tranquil and wifely front. The long engaged woman can never assume this front. Her life and fats are too die-

This state of uncertainty is perhaps the worst butture about the long en-acceptant. It produces a wavering sold validation of skind which is always deployable. Two people are bound together by strong bonds, but, unlike the sours of mar-ways, they are enthe emergement at will and marry otherwhere so that being set apartical count bearing to the fear that at any time the facility for another face may may such other's barein us, canno

may mar melt other's happeness cannot be regarded as a tranquit plaght. Quits the reverse. This difficulty, moreover, is heightened where separation in necessitated, and imagination takes a hard in conjuring up now fears.

No suggestment, even under the most becoming the townstance, with everything assument, can represent excepted at trial and expectation. There is always the larking dread that some unforcessum fate may intervene to anaton sway the helpful object and remote life descints forever afterward, but this same of insecurity is possible for every sort of love.

The long engaged girl soon hummes the largest of outliers surmice from role-bone relatives and friends. As the senson change and spring and fall nearly

sons change and spring and fall marry-ing times command the bother fluctu-selves continually with the question. "When will the walding take place?" This because exceedingly according. Pho-invents planship excuses for the apparently merdions delay, the shields her

his adreit falsehoods about the postponders and their marriage from time to tame, the prelongation of their engagersent, and had sever marmared.

They were married, presalcally enough, but what were their chances of happiness? She had waited year after year, until the light of hope had almost died from her eyes, always believing that he would be keyal and true. Denying herself to all other claimants she had lived on in solitude, a life which is but anticipated widowhood, equisalent to that of the separated wife, but far more insecure and dependent, until she had become an object of conjecture, wenderment, semetimes pity. Then, at last, when marriage actually came to end her long vigil, those old dreams of her heart had fied. New duties were bordensome; attention to a husband's wants and whims was a bore. She had grown fastidious about many things. Triffes worried and irritated her. She was now too old; they had been separated too long to adapt themselves to each other's ways. That mutual giving and receiving semetimes seen in the marriages of younger people of contrasting disposition was impossible with them. Discord was investible.

I hold that the marriages of younger people of contrasting disposition was impossible with them.

I hold that the world's standard of hence upon the engagement question is all wrong; that, being only a period of trial, no censures should attach to either one for breaking an engagement from good and sufficient cause. Nor, on the other hand, abould it be entered into lightly—that's where the censure lies. lightly—that's where the censure lies. Men and women do so frequently display such absolute irresponsibility by entering frivolously into an arrangement which they never intend to consider seriously, and which they break at the earliest convenience, when they have tired of the novelty of it. Not infrequently the price of such lightness and flippancy becomes the cost of a precious life, when unawares a heart has become entangled in the meshes.

in the meshes.

The engagement where love exists only on one side is an interesting study. These are often arranged by the advice of mutual friends for pecuniary reasons or fer some good social cause. Suppose, for instance, that love is on the man's side only, the girl not possessing dislike, but honest respect, and perhaps kindly regard, she being merely acquirescent. The compact is made. The girl soon finds berself obliged to submit to the caresses of a man to whom her heart does not fully respond, and she rebels against this penalty. Every engaged man, save perhaps a few grand courts or other less arctic fances who regard the fair object idol-atrously, considers this his privilege as an accepted lover; but, believe me, there is nothing so repugnant to the feelings of a woman not in love. Where this repugnance exists it grows and grows un-til her former indifference has developed into active hatred, and no course is left to her save to break the engagement as

to her save to break the engagement as speedily as possible.

She longs for release. She looks forward to marriage with dread and distract of herself. Tragic thoughts assail her. She is willing to do anything to be free—to work, to suffer—only to be released from those bonds which have grown so galling. All men are not generous, nor do they all so readily relinquish the prizes they have held in hand. It is not always so easy to break an en-It is not always so easy to break an engagement. Much is involved. Perhaps it has been announced in the newspa-persi congratulations have been received; the places and bois for a house have been accepted, the wedding cards may even be in the engraver's hands—but no matter; it must be broken at any hazard.

Again, supposing that it is the man who finds he has made an egregious mis-take. He has discovered that the woman is inordinately jealous or vain or irre-ligious or untruthful qualities which manifestly unfit her to become his ideal wife-and he desires to part with her. She, being in love, and perhaps the stronger nature of the two, exhibits her skill in the hysterical line, and brings such feminine tactics to bear, by way of holding him to his burgain, as make re-

holding him to his largain, as make re-lease well uigh impossible.

Could such a marriage promise happi-ness? From just such enions grow the startling trajecless that fill our newspa-pers. The ounce of prevention utilized in the breaking off of an utterly uncon-genial ergagement would not have been misspent. Hence I say the code of leaver is faulty upon this delicate point, are yet the subject is so individual, so dependent upon a thousand little unex-plainable circumstances, that regular plainable circumstances, that regular laws can never be laid down for the guidance and pretection of the uniniti-ated. The law of contraries sometimes

"visible income" is entirely assured, and and irritable ! forced, letting concentment provesses of the wonderful and almost whether each a proceeding is past and fair toward the object important accurate remedy. Relief came with it great fair toward the object important such regard. A woman is left in touth thereby. She, keenly intentive, has long since described that like bears is here, but the second have not been asked. I am now as well as I ever was would have not been called a second to the wonderful and almost mirror toward with it. invents placed to start the start in the sta

The lease herself. The idea of marriage after so threatment experience borns her.

An engagement which the came under the writer's aftertion had lasted for sinteen long years. Originally the young woman had been blooming and beautiful, but as the bopoless years crept on the finally sertied down into the decorate thirties without crimps. The man, on the other hand, had gone west to make his everlasting foctors, so that he might return and west the queen of his heart but also, he had protested undying devotion. She went on trusting. Finally he grew trusting finances never to whom he had protested undying devotion. She went on trusting. Finally he grew trust for it all and came back to his first love's feet—she who had believed all of his advoit falseboods about the postpone time to the prelionization of their engage.

Most men make the capendary to that prelioning them appeals in the garge.

Most men make the colossal mistake of their lives by binding a woman to them by engagement when their scheme of life is all unsettled and their definite income ml. But when a man loves he must tell it, and having told it he must get an affirmative mawer to amount to anything as a breadwinner, and having gained her consent he must hold her by an engagement until such time as he can possibly be married, or else some poacher will come trespassing upon his preserves and crush all hope forever from his heart. And so it goes! It is trite to say that all men are more or less selfish, but they are more so in love than less.

Cynthia Mainows.

As Enterprising Woman Editor.

Mrs. F. J. Schofield is known at her home in Providence as an editor, writer and teacher of the first rank. Several years ago her husband was editor of The



Democrat and several other publications, but business troubles compelled him to leave the city immediately. Mrs. Schoffeld took the helm and became editor and manager. The paper prospered as never before in her care. Running a newspaper seems easy enough to Mrs. Schoffeld and does not occupy half her time, as she is a frequent magazine contributor and conducts a shorthand and penmanship school with her usual success. Scarcely thirty-five years of age and in the prime of life, this brilliant woman is considered one of the handsomest women in Providence. Her beausomest women in Providence. Her beau-tiful, stately figure is seen at many of the swell affairs both in Newport and

Two ladies are to be judges at the dog show of the World's fair. The young New England woman who makes a specialty of the rearing of St. Bernards is one of them. She is a judge for this class. The other lady is from Philadelphia, and isone of the judges for all classes of canines. There are five judges for the dog shows, and two out of the five are woman. of the five are women.



silk, two yards of inch ribbon, some bits of flan-nel and two cards. Cover the silk after laying some perfumed wadding on one side. Fasten to-gether by overcasting the sides Sew the silk to-gether, leaving it open four inches at one end, split-

ting the opposite side the same distance down. Here and run a case for the ribbons to close it. Gather the other end (two rown and overcast it to the outer edges of the needle book. This will throw the book into the big, concealing it entirely when closed and tied with the ribbons attacked midway the book.

Pretty world this would be if women had no means of getting information be-

" Ailing Women, " Hear my story and believe.

"I was about dead with womb trouble when I began to

appears to be the only law to such cases, for frequently the stormiest enumerations procede the calmest and smoothest of married lives.

Many honorable men, when their hearts are awakened, hesitate to address the object of their preference until their did not know what rest was for months. I was so dizzy and faint at times I thought I was dying. Oh! how my back the object of their preference until their did note! and I was so cross

therefore retire from the feld uncer- " I am to-day a living witness



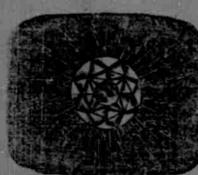
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OUR Baking Department also shows a marked increase and we are still keeping up the quality of our goods not withstanding the high prices of raw materials extra.

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# AN EVENTFUL WEEK!

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One special line of Hamburg That it embroideries at 7c yard.

One special line of Hamburg will Pay embroideries at 10c yard. One special line of Hamburg You embroideries at 121/2 yard.

200 styles of fine Swiss em-broideries at 5c, 8c, 10c, 123/c, To buy 15c, 18c, 2cc and 25c.

We open tomorrow morning Year and do not charge a new and extensive line of WE are also taking orders for Madras—a wonderful lot, in Parties and Receptions fashions, proper designs and offer for the Cream, An-colors. We will offer for this Determined gel's Food, Macaroons, week at very special prices

> Handsome Portieres, elegantly fringed at both ends, Close Out \$3.95 a pair.

Beautiful Portieres, heavily Every fringed and dadoed, at \$4.95 a

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At 39c, 49c, 50c, 65c, 75c

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